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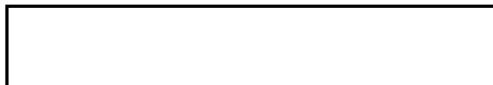
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*Panama: A Supreme Court decision nullifying President Robles' impeachment dims Arnulfo Arias' chances for the presidency.

The high court's ruling was issued last night when eight of the nine justices voted in favor of Robles, basing their decision on "procedural failings" by the National Assembly.

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Arias has pledged to continue the legal fight to support the rival Delvalle "government" by pressing criminal charges against Vallarino.

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In another development yesterday, the resignation of a pro-Arias judge from the three-member electoral tribunal gave the Robles government control of a major element for manipulating the outcome of the elections.

Meanwhile, some of Arias' NU partners are becoming increasingly skeptical of their alliance with a "loser" and probably would desert him at the first chance. In that case, Arias would appear to have little alternative except to go into the elections alone or to withdraw from the race in protest.

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

PRESIDIUM
OLD

Alexander Dubcek
Josef Boruvka
Oldrich Cernik
Michal Chudik
Jaromir Dolansky
Jiri Hendrych
Drahomir Kolder
Bohuslav Lastovicka
Josef Lenart
Antonin Novotny
Jan Piller
Emil Rigo
Otakar Simunek

NEW

Alexander Dubcek
Frantisek Barbirek
Vasil Bilak
Oldrich Cernik
Drahomir Kolder
Frantisek Kriegel
Jan Piller
Emil Rigo
Josef Smrkovsky
Josef Spacek
Oldrich Svestka

ALTERNATE PRESIDIUM MEMBERS

OLD

Antonin Kapek
Miroslav Pastyrik
Michal Sabolcik
Stefan Sadovsky
Martin Vaculik

NEW

Antonin Kapek
Josef Lenart
Martin Vaculik

SECRETARIAT

OLD

Alexander Dubcek
Cestmir Cisar
Jiri Hendrych
Drahomir Kolder
Vladimir Koucky
Miroslav Pastyrik
Frantisek Pecha
Stefan Sadovsky
Martin Vaculik

NEW

Alexander Dubcek
Cestmir Cisar
Alois Indra
Drahomir Kolder
Stefan Sadovsky
Vaclav Slavik
Oldrich Volenik
Zdenek Mlynar

Probable Changes in Government
Present

Future

PREMIER:

Josef Lenart

Oldrich Cernik

DEPUTY PREMIER:

Oldrich Cernik
Frantisek Krajcir
Josef Krejci
Otakar Simunek*

Ota Sik
Lubomir Strougal
Josef Husak

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

Vaclav David

Jiri Hajek

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND
INFORMATION:

Karel Hoffman

Miroslav Galuska

MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

Jiri Hajek

?

MINISTER OF INTERIOR:

Josef Kudrna*

Josef Pavel

MINISTER OF DEFENSE:

Bohumir Lomsky*

Martin Dzur

*Already resigned

***Czechoslovakia:** The party central committee has elected a new leadership and extensive government changes are expected to follow soon.

Reformers within the party now have a heavy majority on the policymaking presidium and are well represented on the new secretariat, which executes policy. The Slovak representation in both bodies is about the same as before. Some of the new members of both bodies appear to have been elected largely because of their technical expertise.

Presumably, all the new leaders are committed in varying degrees to Dubcek's wide-ranging action program. The country's liberals may be disappointed that more of their number were not given high posts, but the majority probably will view these changes as signifying a stable, forward-looking regime.

The new government line-up, which will be submitted to parliament for approval, will be headed by Oldrich Cernik as premier. Ota Sik, Lubomir Strougal, and Josef Husak, all strong proponents of reform, reportedly will become deputy premiers. Cernik, a Czech, will replace Josef Lenart, a Slovak, and thus the traditional distribution of top party and government posts between Czechs and Slovaks will be restored. Lenart has been given a seat on the party secretariat.

The chairmanship of the newly powerful National Assembly reportedly will pass to Josef Smrkovsky. In addition, new men will be named to head all of the key ministries.

The actions of the central committee have encouraged some of the churches of Czechoslovakia to seek to take advantage of the "democratization" process. Bishop Tomasek, the apostolic administrator of Prague, recently sent a letter to Dubcek. In it the bishop called for an end to religious persecution and for negotiations on the restoration of equitable church-state relations.

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He is hopeful that a Vatican representative may visit Prague after Easter to discuss this.

A representative of the Seventh Day Adventists has commented that his church recently has been "finding things easier" in Czechoslovakia.

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Poland: A purge of middle echelon officials is gathering momentum.

Dismissal of a deputy minister of foreign trade and the head of the nuclear energy program probably signals further shifts on this level. Numerous lesser ranking party and government officials have already been fired. A number of working level officials reportedly have not been seen at their regular duties. Trade union functionaries, dissident writers, and academicians have also lost their jobs.

Most of the victims are Jews--veteran officials who have long been under fire by the party's hard-line elements. They probably will be replaced by hard-liner appointees.

New voices are being raised at party meetings and in the press for additional "unmasking" of the "enemies of Poland." The prodding is beginning to take on aspects of a directed campaign and includes hints that some in the upper reaches of the leadership will also be affected. The creation of such a charged atmosphere adds weight to reports of imminent changes in the top levels of the government at a parliamentary session next week.

The situation in Poland, and perhaps even some of the planned changes, may have been discussed at a meeting on 2 April between the Polish ambassador in Moscow and Brezhnev's trouble shooter, Kirilenko.

The purge is being carried out in party leader Gomulka's name, but it appears certain that he is no longer in control of the party elements conducting it. If the process affects Gomulka's supporters, he might become so weakened that he would be little more than a figurehead.

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West Germany - Poland: Bonn is considering a formulation which would assure Poland of West German "respect" for the Oder-Neisse line as a permanent border.

The West German representative in Warsaw recently indicated that Bonn is "basically" ready to declare its "respect" for the Oder-Neisse line until a peace treaty is signed, at which time "the western part of Germany would support the Oder-Neisse as a permanent border."

Such a declaration would be conditional on Polish assurances that improved relations would ensue. According to the official, the Poles have recently implied that recognition of the boundary was the sole prerequisite for improved relations.

The formulation goes further than the one enunciated by Foreign Minister Brandt at the Social Democratic national convention in mid-March. It is far more forthcoming toward the Poles than Bonn's long-standing line that the borders of a reunified Germany can be determined only in an arrangement concluded freely with an all-German government.

Chancellor Kiesinger, thus far unwilling to grant outright recognition of the line, suggested publicly as recently as 2 April that West German and Polish negotiators could now enter discussions on a future settlement.

The confused political situation in Poland may, however, delay matters. Outright rejection of a West German offer would be difficult for the Poles. Such an offer would, however, compel Warsaw to re-examine its antipathetic policy toward Bonn, and to counter the fear of West Germany it has long encouraged.

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NOTES

Jordan: King Husayn has had to settle for a visit to Cairo, and perhaps Baghdad, in lieu of the Arab summit meeting he had requested. Husayn scheduled the visit to Cairo when it became unmistakably clear that Saudi King Faysal would not agree to a summit meeting unless Jordan and Egypt conceded publicly that the Jarring mission had failed. Husayn must now try to get Nasir, at least, to be more forthcoming to Jarring's proposals and to help bring the Palestinian terrorist groups under tighter control. After the Cairo visit, Husayn apparently intends to go to Baghdad with a similar appeal.

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USSR-France: The French have rejected Moscow's latest proposal on space cooperation, [redacted]

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[redacted] The Soviets had proposed setting up a global communications system using satellites built by the two nations. Such an arrangement would have been a clear violation of French commitments to the International Telecommunications Satellite consortium. Paris is claiming that it will limit its cooperation with the USSR in telecommunications to experimental transmissions via Molniya satellites.

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Honduras: Opposition Liberal Party leaders on 3 April gave President Lopez 72 hours to void Sunday's municipal elections and dismiss Vice President and Secretary General of the Presidency Ricardo Zuniga whom they blame for the electoral fraud. They have also called for new elections. They threaten, if their demands are not met, to withdraw from participation in government.

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